

October 17, 2012

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Editorial: Best choices for Wayne Circuit judge; Judges for this busy trial court must be hard-working, self-disciplined and efficient, and remain fair

"Voters in Wayne County next month will be asked to fill several vacant seats on the Wayne Circuit Court. And challengers to incumbents are hoping to shake up the current makeup of the court."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Editorial: For Oakland Circuit Court; Challengers have not made an adequate case for unseating the incumbents

"There are two separate races this election for Oakland County Circuit Court. In one, five incumbent judges are seeking re-election and face two challengers. In the second race, two candidates are competing for an open spot left by a retiring judge."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Wendrows sue former Oakland County assistant prosecutor over remarks

"The Oakland County family wrongly accused of sexually assaulting and abusing their severely autistic daughter is suing the former assistant prosecutor who handled the case -- and who is now running for a district court judgeship -- after she insisted publicly that she would try them again. Andrea Dean, who is trying to unseat Judge Jodi Debbrecht of the 51st District Court of Waterford, was sued Monday by Julian and Thal Wendrow, formerly of West Bloomfield."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Couple avoid paying damages in gun training accident

"An Oakland Circuit Court jury determined Tuesday no damages should be assessed against a Macomb County couple who allowed a May 2009 handgun safety class on their property in which the instructor accidentally shot a student in the face."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Jailed Gentz fears for his life, lawyer says

"Handyman Joseph Gentz is 'looking over his shoulder' in jail, fearful for his life as he awaits a January murder trial, his attorney said.... Gentz's attorney, Susan Reed, said her client remains afraid after the victim's husband, Robert Bashara, admitted in court last week that he tried to hire a hit man to kill Gentz."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Daily Tribune: Joe Gentz vindicated by Bashara plea, attorney says

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb Daily and the Oakland Press.

AnnArbor.com: Judge-ordered Sylvan Township millage recount upholds vote

"The outcome of the August vote stands in a millage request to pay back debt incurred by Sylvan Township for a water and sewer project, according to the results of a judge-ordered recount by the Washtenaw County Board of Canvassers Tuesday."

[Full story](#)

Bay City Times: Election 2012: Bay County District Court judge race sees incumbent Timothy Kelly facing off against Edward Czuprynski

"Bay County voters decide Nov. 6 if they'll keep Timothy J. Kelly as one of their three district court judges or if attorney Edward M. Czuprynski will don the black robe. Voters elected Kelly judge in 2000 to replace retiring District Judge John C. Leaming. Kelly took the bench the following year and is currently the district court's chief judge, a position he was appointed to by the state's Court Administrator's Office and the Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

Bay City Times: Bay County District Court visits Bay City Central High School to sentence drunken drivers

"Four area men convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or marijuana received their sentences in front of an unusual crowd Tuesday — an auditorium filled with students at Bay City Central High School."

[Full story](#)

Crain's Detroit Business: Dedicated business courts required by Jan. 1

"Gov. Snyder signed into law Tuesday a bill that creates at least 17 dedicated business court dockets statewide, to make local circuit courts more efficient at resolving complex commercial litigation at local circuit courts. The legislation, first introduced by Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, requires every circuit court in the state with three or more judges after Jan. 1 to begin placing business and commercial litigation cases valued at more than \$25,000 before judges who are assigned by the Michigan Supreme Court to business cases within that circuit."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Oakland Press: Snyder signs bills for business, veterans courts

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Volunteer docents needed for Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

"Volunteers need enthusiasm, love of learning, and commitment — but no legal experience — to serve as docents for the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center. The next training sessions begin Oct. 31; volunteers are encouraged to submit applications by Oct. 22 to allow time for application review and screening."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb County Legal News.

Also see:

Volunteer Docents Needed for Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

[Press release](#)

Detroit Legal News: Michigan jury reform project receives national honor; Award recognizes significant improvements or innovations for juries

"I come today to present the 2012 G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation to this court and the trial court judges who participated in the Jury Reform Pilot project," said Robert Baldwin, National Council of State Courts (NCSC) Vice President and General Counsel, speaking before the Michigan Supreme Court in the old Supreme Court courtroom in the state Capitol building on October 9th."

[Full story](#)

Grand Haven Tribune: 2 seek Ottawa Co. District Court seat

"[Magistrate Vernon Helder] and [Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Craig Bunce] will face off Nov. 6 for the chance to fill the seat of retiring 58th District Court Judge Richard Kloote. Kloote, 73, is retiring after 30 years on the bench due to age limitations."

[Full story](#)

Holland Sentinel: Local, state judicial misconduct cases draw action

"It has been a tough year so far for some judges.... The [Judicial Tenure Commission] is an investigatory and prosecutorial arm of the Michigan Supreme Court with oversight responsibility for 1,259 state court judges."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Judge says man involved in Oshtemo shooting deserves more prison time but follows plea deal

"[Kalamazoo County Circuit Judge Pamela L. Lightvoet] said a Kalamazoo man deserves more than the minimum three-and-a-half years in prison he is to serve for being part of a group that shot three people at an Oshtemo Township apartment complex, but that she would grudgingly go along with the plea agreement."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Endorsement letters: Raymond Kostrzewa will make a fine circuit judge

Muskegon County Circuit Judge James M. Graves Jr. writes "I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Raymond Kostrzewa's candidacy for the office of circuit judge in Muskegon County."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Who is that stage left at the Detroit Opera House?

"For those of you who are not theater buffs, we're talking about the actor on the right. Why, it's Justice Marilyn Kelly of the Michigan Supreme Court on opening night of the Michigan Opera Theater's production of 'The Barber of Seville.' The show runs through Oct. 21."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Flagrant foul called on Democratic attack in Supreme Court race

"MICHIGAN TRUTH SQUAD ANALYSIS: 'Streak' and 'Lily'; Who: Michigan Democratic Party; What: Web/TV ads; Truth Squad call: Flagrant Foul."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Resentence juvenile lifers? Michigan appeals court considers implications of Supreme Court ruling

"The Michigan Court of Appeals is weighing arguments in a single case that may shape the fate of 368 prisoners serving mandatory life sentences for violent crimes they committed when they were minors. Attorney Patricia Selby Tuesday asked the appeals court to order resentencing for her client, Raymond Carp, who was convicted of first-degree murder in the 2006 stabbing of 43-year-old MaryAnn McNeely in St. Clair County."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WKAR News/East Lansing: Michigan Court Of Appeals Hears Arguments On Juvenile Lifer Case

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: The jail dilemma: Overcrowding, ongoing maintenance issues create Muskegon County headache

"If you have been inside the jail – as an inmate, visiting an inmate, working as a guard or on a tour – than you probably comprehend the poor conditions that Muskegon County officials often cite when talking about the need for a new facility."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Adult Treatment Court conducts graduation today

"Today at 2 p.m., the Oakland County Adult Treatment Court (ATC) will conduct its 33rd graduation since its inception in August of 2001. The 124th through the 128th graduates will be honored with a ceremony and reception to be held in the Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium, Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 North Telegraph Road in Pontiac."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Profanity in the courtroom: How, if at all, should the offender be punished?

"Jackson County 12th District Court Judge Darryl Mazur has seen people standing before him get angry and use profanity. In fact, the judge said it happened in September."

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: Letter: John McColgan Jr. deserves support for Saginaw County prosecutor

Retired Judge Joseph G. Defrancesco writes "I encourage all the voters to support and vote for John A. McColgan Jr. for prosecuting attorney of Saginaw County."

[Full story](#)